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CANADIAN ARCHÆOLOGY.

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CANADIAN ARCHÆOLOGY.

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The early history of Canada is a proper study for every true Canadian Patriot. It is replete with interest, not wanting in material, and embraces a field of research far more extensive than is generally supposed. In preparing this article the writer has quoted from various authors, and has also contributed several facts which have not before appeared in print. It is now admitted by geologists that America is the oldest world physically; the first land that emerged from the waters, being probably that range of highlands which constitutes the boundary between Canada and the United States, on that portion of the line so seriously contested a few years ago. This primeval region stands partly in Canada and partly in the United States. Diodorus Siculus has written that the Phœnicians had navigated the Atlantic very far, and upon the authority of Josephus the transmigration of Phœnicians to what is now called America on a Syrian Fleet in the employ of Solomon is spoken of. That Canada was discovered by them seems probable from the fact of glass beads of accepted Phœnician manufacture having been found in an ancient estuary of the Copper age at Beverly, in Canada. Some stone hammers were found in the vicinity of Sherbrooke Street, Montreal, similiar in make to those represented on Egyptian

Monuments, and the curious may still see, in actual use, in the Parish of St. Laurent, on the Island of Montreal, a *fac similie* of the Chinese Shadoof, which is very similiar to the Shadoof of ancient Egypt.

When discovered by modern Europeans, Canada was occupied by the following Indian nations. The Killistinons, Tetes de Boule, Assenibuals, Sioux, Hurons, Iroquois, Outaouas, and Algonquins. The Hurons and Iroquois are in possession of Scythian and other ancient customs; scalping, torturing and eating their prisoners, the construction of their canoes, their implements of warfare, marching in Indian fyle, and their treatment of the infirm, are all Scythian customs. The low ground in Montreal, in the vicinity of the intersection of Ontario and St. Urbain Streets, was formerly called La Cavée des Casse-Tetes, because it was there that the Indians despatched the infirm.

The Hurons and Iroquois were also in possession of the Mosaic law of intermarriage, and of a custom sanctioned by the law of the Hebrews, and which no other code contains, which is, that if a man die without leaving any children, his brother is obliged to take the widow, so that the name and house of his brother should not be extinguished. Some characteristic customs of the Lycians, compared with those of the Hurons and Iroquois, have led to a conjecture that the latter sprung from the former.

The Government of the Iroquois and Hurons is the same as that of the Lycians. The part of the power posssessed by the men is by special authority delegated to them by the women. As soon as a

Chief dies, the matron who possesses the most authority after a conference with those of her own tribe, announces to the village his successor. The Chief elect is presented, at once, proclaimed and acknowledged, and afterwards presented to the other villages. No satisfactory information can be obtained from the Indians in general, touching their origin, unless it is faintly traced to the origin of mankind. The tradition of the Great Hare is referred to by Charlevoix in his journal. He also refers to another tradition in which there is mention made of another deity who opposed the desings of the Great Hare ; this he thinks of foreign extraction, and so does Jones, the author of Indian Traditions, from the circumstance that the opposing god is called the Great Tyger, which animal is not found in Canada.

Vestiges of all the ancient religions were found in America, and the words Alleluia, the Allelujah of the Hebrews, and Ye-ho-wah, Ye-ho-vah, which last word, says Clarke, is probably the true pronounciation of the ancient Hebrew word, Jehovah.

The Iroquois had sacred fire and vestals, Virgins consecrated to their gods. The people treated them with great respect. Cartier saw at Ochelaga Lodges full of them. The Iroquois also, as well as the Hurons, had Hermits. Lafitau saw one of them at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal. He was a Huron; he had been made a slave by the Iroquois who spared his life ; he afterwards committed a crime and then took refuge at the village of La Prairie de

la Magdelaine, above Montreal, on the other side of the River St. Lawrence.

Authors of respectability bear testimony that signs of Christianity did exist in America when discovered by modern Europeans. A small Indian nation has been found towards Gaspè in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on a river named Sainte Croix, which was called Crucientaux or Cross Bearers.

The date assigned for the discovery of Canada by Cabot is April the 5th, 1499 Cartier was the next distinguished individual who visited Canada He was well received by "The Lord of Canada" who resided at Stadacona, which occupied a portion of the space on which Quebec stands, probably near the Old Ash Tree still living in the grounds at present belonging to the Ursuline Convent. This tree was growing long before the time of Cartier and Cabot, and must be at least five hundred years old. Cartier moored his vessels in the river St. Charles. He was the first who explored the shores of Canada to any considerable extent, and was the very first modern European who became acquainted with the existence of and entered Ochelaga, the germ of the noble city of Montreal. He landed below the current St. Mary, and passed through large fields of Indian Corn on his way to the village—it was near the mountain, which was even then tilled all around, and remarkable for its fertility. He was particularly enchanted with the magnificent view presented to him from the summit of the mountain, and in honor of the King, his master, he gave it the name of Mont Royal, which with a change in its termin-

ation, has been extended to the City, the Island and District in which it is situated. It retained the original name at least till 1690. The outline of the village of Ochelaga was circular, and encompassed by rows of palisades, only a single entrance was left, and that was guarded by pikes and stakes, Cartier's own description of the village taken in connection with the statements of the Jesuit Missionaries, and the antiquities recently discovered, fix almost beyond doubt the fact that the village was situated between Sherbrooke, St. Catherine, Mansfield, and Metcalfe Streets. The learned Principal of McGill College University has written two very interesting papers on these important discoveries, wherein he proves the shape of the village and its position to be precisely similar to the descriptions of Cartier and the Jesuits. In excavating the above mentioned ground, the following Indian remains and antiquities were discovered :—Skeletons in a sitting posture, fragments of pottery, tobbacco pipes, stone chisels, stone hammers, whet-stones, a wampum shell, a barbed bone point of a fish spear, a bone head of an arrow, a bone needle, bone stamps for impressing patterns on pottery. Ashes and charcoal indicated the position of ancient fireplaces. Bones were found of the Beaver, Bear, Dog and Wolf, besides bones of fishes and birds.

Last spring a discovery of Indian antiquities was made in another part of the City of Montreal, some men excavating for Mr. Shelton in a yard in Hospital Street, found several pieces of stone fashioned into pipe heads, or in the course of being so

made. Some of them have evidently been long used for although they may have been buried for centuries, the scent of the tobacco clung to them still.

Indian antiquities have been found at Mile End and Lachine near Montreal, and at Nicolet. In the township of Augusta, about eight miles and a half north-west of Prescott, are some ancient Indian works, about 80 rods in length, the greatest width being 20 rods. The westerly part has a half moon embankment, extending some ten rods across a neck of land terminating to the north in a swamp, and to the south-west near the edge of a creek. The eastern and southern portions of this place where there are tumuli, and where from appearances, the inhabitants resided, is from 15 to 18 feet above, and descends abruptly to the swampy grounds. On the north is a large tamarac swamp, the "Nation" river is about a mile to the north-east and the intervening land is low, while the south-east and south ground rises gently at the distance of 50 or 80 rods. The soil on the table land is rich, and at every step evidences are beheld of its having been once thickly inhabited. On opening the mounds they were found to be composed of earth, charcoal and ashes, and contained human skulls and bones, horns, and skulls of deer, bones of the bear, unio shells, great quantities of earthenware, some of which was of the most elaborate workmanship, pipes, needles, and a part of a walrus tooth.

In Edwardsburg near Spencerville, about half a mile west of the village, on an elevated piece of ground, there is an Indian work similiar to the fore-

RD 128

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going. This is well chosen for defence, overlooking the surrounding country to a great distance, the embankment is in the shape of a moccasined foot, the heel pointing to the south and the toes north, enclosing about three and a half acres of ground; some parts of the embankment are from two to three feet high. Some pieces of pottery were obtained here, also pieces of clay pipes, one of them richly ornamented, an entire pipe, a piece of a human skull polished, and with several notches in the edge. The "terra cotta" found here is elaborate in its workmanship, and is as hard as the stoneware of the present day. A few rounded pieces of pottery in the shape of coin, about the size of a quarter of a dollar and less were also found, together with a beautifully polished bone needle, and a piece of ivory in the shape of a knife. Humboldt says that in Canada he had seen lines of defences and entrenchments of extraordinary length, the work of some people belonging to the early ages, and that amidst the extensive plains of Upper Canada, dykes of a considerable length, weapons of brass, and sculptured stones are found, which are the indications that it was formerly inhabited by industrious nations. Vestiges of a proud and once powerful race are traceable in various parts of Canada, and are worthy of patient and thorough investigation. It is by the careful collection and preservation of facts, similiar to those contained in this paper, minute though they may be in detail, that a sufficiency of data can be gathered from which some future historian may do justice to the earlier inhabitants of this country, and trace a history of Primitive Canada.

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